

QUEBEC ISSUES

DISCUSSED AT NICOLET BY THE MINISTERS.

Hon. Mr. FLYNN

—ON—


FINANCES

TELLS WHAT HAS BEEN DONE TO RESTORE RIGHT
CONDITIONS

WORK OF AGRICULTURE.

HON. MR. BEAUBIEN

Delivers a Most Interesting Address on an
Interesting Subject.



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Tells What Has Been Done to Restore Right Conditions—Work for Agriculture—Hon. Mr. Beaubien Delivers a Most Interesting Address on an Interesting Subject.

(From THE GAZETTE, Montreal, 6th Oct., 1896.)

NICOLET, October 5.—Hon. E. J. Flynn, Prime Minister, Hon. L. Beaubien, Commissioner of Agriculture and Colonization; Hon. T. Chapais, President of the Council, arrived here yesterday from Three Rivers, on Mr. J. A. Gagnon's pleasure yacht, and held a successful meeting in the afternoon.

Before leaving Three Rivers they paid a visit to the venerable Bishop Lafleche. Afterwards, in company with Mayor Cook, Mr. P. E. Panneton, President of Exposition; J. A. Frigon, Secretary of the Exposition; Hon. Joseph Royal, of Montreal; N. S. Duplessis, M.L.A., and several prominent citizens of Three Rivers they visited the Exposition Grounds. His Worship the Mayor welcomed the visitors. Hon. Messrs. Flynn, Beaubien, Chapais and Royal spoke a few words each, appreciative of the welcome extended to them.

On their return, the party proceeded to

Mr. Gagnon's yacht, accompanied by Messrs. P. E. Panneton, J. A. Frigon, of Three Rivers, and C. P. Beaubien, of Montreal.

On arrival at Nicolet, they were met by Messrs. Ball, McCaffrey and Camirand, and, after visiting the residences of Messrs. McCaffrey and Mayor Ball, the party repaired to the Rochette Hotel for dinner. They afterwards visited the College and its grounds, and paid a short visit to the Bishop's Palace.

The meeting took place at the Town Hall, at 3 p.m. The hall can contain from 1,000 to 1,200 persons and was filled to its utmost capacity.

An address was presented by Mayor Ball, who presided at the meeting. He congratulated Hon. Mr. Flynn on the wisdom displayed by the present Government, and welcomed, for the first time, a Prime Minister to the town and county of Nicolet.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. Flynn made an eloquent and spirited address. He disclaimed any desire to recall the scandals of the last Liberal Administration, but justice exacted certain references to some of the results of these acts. The Prime Minister referred to his visit to Three Rivers at the time of the Exposition and the cordial reception accorded to him there. This was the first time he had the pleasure of addressing an audience in the town of Nicolet, but he had followed the history of the grand institution of education of this town. He thanked Hon. Mr. Beaubien, whom he designated as the "Apostle of Agriculture," for the occasion offered of addressing this large audience. He then addressed himself to the political questions of the day. The people, he said, had a right to hear the result of the Conservative administrations, which had succeeded one another since 1892. It was needless to go beyond that date, as the electorate had pronounced a verdict, with no uncertain sound, on the former administration, and as the leader of that administration was gone, it was not becoming to them to attack the memory of the dead. He would deal with the acts of the De Boucherville and Taillon Governments, as well as the administration of which he himself was chief. They had come to power, and found a deficit of over a million. This had been converted into a surplus of \$286,000 for the last fiscal year. Their opponents accused them of taxing and borrowing, but the people of this Province must know better. Those who had caused the expenses, and contracted the obligations which rendered the taxes and loans necessary were responsible for these taxes and loans. In December, 1891, they had taken charge of the ship of state, and found it stranded on the reefs of exhausted credit, completely dismantled, while today, this ship was full-rigged, and ready to meet all the gales and tempests raised by the enemies of the Pro-

vince. He could speak more particularly of the Department of Crown Lands, of which he had the direction during four years. He had recovered \$91,000, of which the Department had been defrauded during that lamentable administration. The taxes which had become necessary were imposed on those who could best bear the burden. Most of these taxes had been abolished, and that on transfers would be abolished next session. There would then remain only the tax on rich successions and corporations. The loans had not exceeded the amount voted by the previous Administration to pay railway subsidies and other obligations amounting to about \$13,000,000. They had to do this to uphold the honor and credit of the Province, which had been placed in danger by the extravagance of the former Government. He touched on the agricultural and colonization policy, leaving the details to Hon. Mr. Beaubien. In the Crown Land Department revenue had been between six and seven hundred thousand dollars, and had been raised to over a million, while the expenses had been reduced over \$100,000. The fish and game reserves produced a revenue of \$30,000, where nothing had been collected before. He touched upon the primary declaration in his programme that the present Government wished to preserve order, stability and justice. The former Government by issuing letters of credit and other crooked transactions had violated the constitution, and they had been signally punished. The present Government wished to do justice to all, without exacting pay, nor charging toll for settling questions in justice to friend or foe.

THE QUESTION OF EDUCATION.

They wished to help primary education, as they considered that the teachers were not sufficiently paid. The system of education

in the Province was good in the main, but susceptible of improvement. Agricultural education would also receive a large share of attention from the present Government. He next referred to their success in obtaining a decision in their favor with regard to the northern and northeastern frontier of the Province. By this move they had secured about 32,000,000 acres of land to the Province. They proposed to make this new property produce enough revenue to continue to govern the Province without new taxes. He touched upon the reorganization of the different departments, so that work would be more evenly divided among the Ministers. He repeated his statement on the railway policy. They would recognize engagements already contracted, but would make no more engagements. The question of Federal grants was next brought up. The Province should receive a grant in proportion to the population at last census, and three of the members of the Federal Government had expressed their approval of this principle at the interprovincial conference. This question had been raised by previous administrations, and was not now brought up to embarrass the present federal administration, but as a matter of justice to the Province. Some people have begun already to warn the Quebec Government that they can prepare to decamp, in view of the result of the federal elections in this Province. This result is not at all a necessary consequence. The provincial administration is altogether distinct from the Federal Government. The people of this Province are intelligent enough to make a distinction, and they can see that, although as citizens we uphold the same principles, the two Governments are independent of each other. The present Government appeals to the reason of the people, not to prejudice nor passion. Their law is that of love, not of hate. By union alone we can save our province. The Prime Minister

was repeatedly applauded and his closing remarks produced a storm of applause, which continued for several minutes.

MR. BEAUBIEN'S ADDRESS.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, after acknowledging the applause with which he was greeted, said:—Now that I have the happiness of meeting in this place representatives of every part of the County of Nicolet, devoted friends with whom I have already encountered many a contest, allow me to thank you with all my heart for the firm support and devotion you have invariably manifested towards the Conservative party. Happy am I to have this opportunity of introducing among you these my energetic colleagues, who will find themselves quite at home in this lovely town of Nicolet, where our numerous friends have not been sparing of their enthusiastic expressions of sympathy. Doubtless, it would have been better, in answer to the request of the whole county, had the meeting been held in the usual centre of the county, that is, Becancour. But, so late in the season, I hardly dared to convoke an assemblage in any place where we could not find any shelter in case of a shower. As soon as we can manage it, you may be perfectly sure that we shall hold our meeting in some other place in the county, so as to satisfy the desires of all our friends.

Before long, gentlemen, you will have to determine if your member, and the members of the Ministry, of which he has the honor to form a part, have conscientiously discharged the duty with which you entrusted them. Meanwhile, we have felt that it was our duty to visit you and discuss matters with you, to meet our friends, whom I need hardly say, it is a real pleasure to see once more. I shall not compare our Ministry with that which preceded it, before March 8th, 1892. I shall leave that task to my honorable colleagues, who will address you on the sub-

ject of our finances, and on other matters of politics in which you are interested. But I may say, and you know this as well as we do, that from the 8th March the era of scandals came to an end.

THE GOVERNMENT'S WORK.

We have re-established order in our finances, and that without having recourse to the system of three-column budgets employed by our predecessors—one column for ordinary expenditure, another for special expenditure, and a third for expenditure to be charged to capital account. No, we have proceeded quietly along two columns, receipts and expenditure. You will observe that in spite of the extraordinary state of things we were called upon to encounter, we have succeeded in presenting to the Province a reasonable surplus. I hear our opponents exclaim: "True, but you have taxed the people to obtain it." I do not conceal it; we had the courage, after having subjected ourselves as well as our employes to the impost, to invite the people to aid us in filling up the past deficits and to repair the disasters caused by our predecessors. The debts of the province had to be met. It could not be allowed to go into bankruptcy. But now these new burdens are being cast off, one after the other, as fast as our economies, practised with prudence and persistence, permit us to make fewer applications to the funds of the public; as fast as the resources of our various departments increase, as we found this year they did in the Department of Crown Lands.

WORK FOR AGRICULTURE.

As for me, my friends, I came to the conclusion that it was my part to set to work in earnest persistently, and I constituted my politics finally of agriculture with very little politics mixed up in it. I visited the agricultural meetings as often as I felt that I could do any good there. I kept my at-

tention fixed on the end to be obtained, calling in the aid of all the sincere friends of agriculture; and now I have to relate to you that which I think has been realized. Not that I arrogate the merit of this to myself; the electors in due time and place will decide to whom the merit belongs; but it is my duty to lay before you the progress accomplished, the success obtained. As I now, of necessity, enter into details, I will confine myself to the subjects of agriculture and colonization. We have been severely economical in every department, and I congratulate, on this point, my honorable colleagues as well as the Speaker of the House. But, in both agriculture and colonization we have been careful not to hinder progress in any direction whatsoever. I thank my honorable colleagues, as well as the House, for the latitude that has been allowed to my Department. We have certainly not abused it, and I beg you, gentlemen, after seeing the statement I am about to lay before you, to judge yourselves whether or not we have made a good use of the funds entrusted to our charge, and if we have, or have not, been worthy of the confidence reposed in us.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

The first, the chief, measure adopted for the improvement of our agriculture, was the act establishing farmers' clubs. It placed at the disposition of the farmer an entirely novel organization. Up to that period, there had been but few clubs, their existence was not recognized by the law. By these clubs, members of the same parish of the same place, can meet together without difficulty, and this is not so with the agricultural societies, that embrace a whole county, and their members can hardly find an opportunity of attending the meetings. But in a club, every one can attend the sessions, at least once a month. All the people in a parish can unite to prove the truth of the proverb, "Union is strength." They can combine

their resources for the purchase of implements, artificial manures, breeding stock, and place all these at the service of the members. Thus, the action of the clubs on agriculture, on the improvement of pastures, on root crops, green fodder, vegetables, on the improved farm buildings required by our long winters, the diffusion of good farm practice, the use of chemical manures, has been most efficient. The clubs have greatly aided, too, the progress of dairying. Never has any organization so rapidly revealed itself by the benefits it has spread abroad. An implement maker told me, last year, that, thanks to the clubs alone, he had sold 300 more chaff cutters than usual. Mr. Dawes, of Lachine, Mr. Greenshields, of Danville, say, that every week they are visited by delegates from the clubs, anxious to buy breeding stock of different kinds. Allow me, on this important occasion, to make use of the newspapers that doubtless are represented here, to announce to our clubs that have enabled us to travel so rapidly along the path of improvement, that I will invariably do all that lies in my power to aid them. There are today 550 clubs. They had no legal existence before 1893. There were then about 23 that were carried on with greater or less regularity. In these associations the best theoretical and the best practical men of the district—aye, even from abroad—meet and exchange ideas. It was stated that the clubs were antagonistic to the Agricultural Societies. Allow me to cite a law proposed by the zealous member for the St. Louis division of Montreal, Mr. Parizeau, to allow the clubs to form a Co-operative Association with the the County Agricultural Societies, so that the presidents of all the clubs shall compose the Board of Directors of the County Agricultural Society. In this way all the parishes in the county are represented, and the old County Society may be kept going more efficiently than

ever. The County of Chambly is organized on this plan.

THE "JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE."

In 1892 this periodical had 7,000 subscribers, it now has 52,000. I can state, of my own knowledge, gathered in my numerous travels throughout the Province, that it is read in every farmer's family, it is not allowed to accumulate in heaps at the Post Office. On the contrary, complaints are soon heard if a man's number has not arrived in due time, and we know something of these complaints. Many belong to the clubs solely for the sake of receiving the *Journal*, and there is not, no, not in the whole world, any farm journal that has such a number of readers. What an immense advantage is this for the Province. The usefulness of it is attested by the numerous letters from subscribers that relate to our Department what excellent results they obtain from their crops from following the advice of this publication.

THE DAIRY SCHOOL.

For the encouragement of our dairy industry, the sole business that in the past, as well as in the present, and for the future, offers itself to us as the chief source of profit and prosperity, to encourage this industry we need good makers of butter and cheese, as well as well fitted up creameries and cheeseries. Almost all this was in its infancy. I turned to the Dairymen's Association, which replied, that there were not enough inspectors, nor enough makers either; that they had to import them from abroad. The Cabinet yielded at once to the Dairymen's Association, and founded the school at St. Hyacinthe in 1892. Look how success crowned the experiment. The first year, 1892-93, the school received 214 pupils; in 1893-94, 268; in 1894-95, 312; and this year 300, making a total of 1,094 pupils in the four years! I am de-

lighted to acknowledge the signal services of those who assisted us in placing this school on such an excellent footing. The Ministry is determined to neglect no means of maintaining this nursery of our makers in such a style that we shall have no reason to envy our neighbors.

AGRICULTURAL LECTURERS.

Every club is obliged, to obtain a right to its grant, to have at least two lectures a year; and the Ministry was therefore anxious to have a sufficient number of lecturers to supply all demands. We are asked to increase the number, and it is with pleasure we find that people are earnestly attentive to the lecturers, and are vastly anxious to gather all the good they can from their lips.

CREAMERIES AND CHEESERIES.

In 1891 we had 114 creameries and 568 cheeseries; in all, 682. In 1895 we had 302 creameries and 1,417 cheeseries; in all, 1,773. According to the census of 1891, the production of butter and cheese in 1890 did not reach \$3,000,000. In 1894, according to the statements of the makers, the value of the two articles exceeded \$7,500,000.

In comparing the production of this year with the production of 1890, we find that the farmer received for butter and cheese upwards of four millions of dollars in 1894 more than they received in 1890. Allow me to quote to you the commercial review of the *Montreal Herald* of 21st November last:—

“The exports this year, up to date, have been: Cheese, 1,058,172 boxes; last year, 1,052,593 boxes; increase, 5,575 boxes. For butter, up to date, 90,636 tubs or boxes; last year, 30,904 tubs or boxes; increase, 54,692.”

So, the production of butter seems by this to have nearly tripled. Let me show you how useful the Department has been to the makers of butter and cheese, by quoting the

words of a leading banker of Montreal, Mr. Hague, General Manager of the Merchants Bank, in 1895. He spoke thus:—

“The Government of this Province sent, last year, to Denmark a commission to study the subject of butter-making. The report of this commission, or extracts from it, should be in the hands of every farmer, not only in this Province, but throughout the Dominion.”

You know that this commission was composed of my assistant, M. Gigault, and M. Leclaire, the head of the Dairy School at St. Hyacinthe. All the agricultural associations in the Province have received copies of the report Mr. Hague so warmly praises.

COMPETITIONS OF THE BUTTER AND CHEESE FACTORIES.

To stimulate our makers, the Department instituted competitions on this plan: No warning being given, the makers of butter and cheese receive, from the department, a letter asking that a cheese or a tub of butter be sent, the next or following day, to a certain address in a certain town. The cheese or the tub of butter in question is bought by the Department. These goods are judged by specialists, medals, diplomas, or money prizes are given to those who obtain the highest number of marks, no prize, of course, being awarded to the inferior articles. To the makers of second-class goods, information and advice—even blame—are sent for their goods, but this is known only to themselves. The prize-winners while the unlucky ones are making good resolutions, publishes the award he has won, and relates the event of the competition to all his acquaintances. We, therefore, have a right to say that these competitions can do no harm to any one not even to the inferior maker, but, on the contrary, may help him to improve, and are calculated to raise considerably the level of our manufacture. This is one of the improve-

ments due to the trip to Europe, on which the Manager of the Merchants Bank compliments us. These competitions have only been in operation this year, but we see at once what encouragement they now give to a good maker who takes the trouble to study and will take the ordinary means required to produce a good article. The judges of these competitions are selected from among the principal exporters of dairy goods.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHEESE.

The old saying that "it is not safe to put all the eggs into one basket" may also be interpreted as an advice not to make invariably one and the same article. Up to the present we have always made "Canadian Cheddar," and it may be said that no other kind is made in the Province. Still we have aimed at preparing the road towards the making of new kinds. Why not make Gruyere Camembert? It is true that we have long had those capital "fromage raffini" from l'Île d'Orleans and Boucherville, cheese so well liked by the gourmet; but their manufacture has never equalled the demand, so we think the making of new sorts should be encouraged. I am happy to say here in public, before the appearance of the prize list of the Montreal Exhibition, that the Rev. Peres Trappists, of Oka, won a gold medal, and M. L. Chagnon, of St. Paul l'Hermite, l'Assomption, a silver medal for a good and superior Gruyere cheese, made in this Province, from the milk of our cows. There, then, is a novel trade, one which I hope will soon increase. The lads whom we have in the Farm School at Oka cannot fail to spread over the country the true method of making good cheese.

WINTER BUTTER-MAKING.

During the last three years the Government has been giving a premium for butter-

making in winter, and in that time the production of butter at that season has tripled. You remember when the Messrs Houle told us that in spite of having to draw their milk a long distance, winter butter-making had doubled the returns from their herd. In '93, the first year of the premium, was made winter butter worth \$31,727; in '94, \$60,694; in '95, \$115,011.

Thus, the trade being established, and able to stand alone, we diverted our efforts to a new industry, the exportation of butter in a fresh state, immediately after it is made, and sent over in refrigerators. Last year Government began the grant, and we find by the reports in our possession that the exportation of butter since the opening of navigation this year has been thrice as great as it was last year during the same period. Now, this increase occurred more especially in this Province, though the number of our creameries is not so great as elsewhere, and in this Province we have no reason to envy our great neighbor, to say nothing of our 1,400 cheeseries.

FARM SCHOOLS.

We now have five farm schools for lads and one for girls at Roberval. Since 1892 the number of pupils has increased from twenty-four to 100. At this very time two special and distinguished lecturers, one a member of the clergy, the other Dr. Grignon, are engaged in what I might call a crusade, going round the country and teaching farmers that it is high time their children should be instructed in their noble profession. Their success is far beyond what we had a right to expect. One parish alone furnished thirteen pupils. I was lately reading the report of a meeting held in a parish south of the St. Lawrence. St. Michel, Napierville. There the zealous Cure, after the visit of the Rev. Pere Lacasse and Dr. Grignon, declared to the audience that he was about to leave for the farm school with thirteen lads,

all sons of his parishioners. Another thing that encourages me greatly is that St. Martin, Laval, a parish that until now has furnished the greatest number of pupils, i.e., nine, learning that St. Michel had beaten it, has not tamely submitted, but has sent enough additional pupils to regain its pristine majority. I ask myself, and with reason, have I not a right to expect that St. Martin, with its energetic vim, will not do its best to retain the palm. Our farm schools will be filled as our classical colleges are, and, thank God, after having gloried in the fact of classical education being so widely spread, we shall be able to say that the other course of instruction, as important, as supplying a prudent, honest people like the Christian population of the rural districts, is also appreciated. Our farm schools are regularly visited by inspectors, and I may say we are thoroughly satisfied with the success obtained in them.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROADS.

In order to have the fewest possible factories, i.e., to secure that the greatest quantity possible of milk should be sent to one maker alone, we need milk routes, good roads. The curse of our dairying is, indubitably, too many small factories; that receiving only a small quantity of milk each cannot possibly turn out so good an article as a factory where milk is abundant. If we could persuade our municipalities to start making good roads our farmers would have less disinclination to draw their milk longer distances for the sake of delivering it at a large central factory. To assist this, the Department has thought fit to undertake the improvement of the roads. We announce, then, at this important meeting that in future, either for the benefit of the municipalities or for the sake of individuals who shall combine to ask for the aid of this Department, we have established as a branch of our Ministry that of the roads. An inspector has been

appointed whose duty will be to visit different localities and give lectures on road management, to decide on roads to be made or alterations to be carried out, and to explain the mode of using the various machines, of which the Department has several, and will get more, if more are required. There is a stone-breaker, a roller, and machines to shape the road-bed, making the ditches at the same time as the rounding of the bed. Each of these machines is entrusted to a foreman who is under the direction of the Department. The management furnishes the machine as well as the foreman, the municipalities or individuals having to supply the horses and the laborers that may be required. This plan has only been decided upon during the last month or so. The municipalities that derive the benefit by it have only to make an application and, in their turn, they can take advantage of what we offer to them. Since we inaugurated the system of coming to the assistance of the municipalities, I am happy to say that more than one of them has hastened to buy one of the machines, whose excellent work they are in a position to prove. In Denmark farmers have to furnish broken stone along that part of the road they have to keep up. During the long winter months they break the stones, and, in summer, the municipalities, after having rounded up the roads with the machines, lay the stones on them. In this Province, the municipalities after having prepared the roadbed, have a right to demand from the taxpayers that a certain quantity of them be placed alongside the road in proper places; then the steam crusher and roller which we possess will come and break the stones, the only thing remaining to be done to them being the spreading on the roadbed.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

I have already, on an occasion like the present, published figures that prove, I think,

that we can again congratulate ourselves on the progress realized in the Province of Quebec; that the people have really entered upon a new era. Allow me to recite to you some of these figures. The prosperity of a people is determined, and reasonably so, by the deposits made in the Savings Banks, which represent the sums that the people have been able to lay by after having supplied their wants. In Ontario, to compare the two Provinces, on June 30th, 1894, the deposits in the Savings Banks were \$18,580,884; on June 30th, 1890, \$16,803,777, an increase of \$1,698,071, or 10.05 per cent.; in Quebec the deposits were, on June 30th, 1894, \$17,262,801; on June 30th, 1890, \$14,650,060, an increase of \$2,606,741, or 17.78 per cent.

TESTIMONY OF MEN OF BUSINESS.

Now, it will be a good thing if you would ask yourselves if the accomplishment of all this progress may fairly be attributed, in some degree, to those who are entrusted in the legislature with the interests of agriculture. After having quoted the opinion of some of our men of business whom we esteem as they deserve, let me give you the opinion of Mr. Wolferstan Thomas, manager of the Molsons Bank; and I mention him the more readily, because he is not one of our political friends. On the 2nd December, 1895, he spoke as follows :

"In none of the provinces has prosperity been more manifest than in Quebec. This is due to the prudence and economy of the French-Canadians, and to the enlightened policy of the Hon. Louis Beaubien."

The press has already published this passage, and, I must confess, that I told Mr. Thomas that I should make use of his words when any fair opportunity, such as the present, should present itself. To this he replied, that he was perfectly willing that I should do so, and that he was happy in being able to see that such progress had been made. I feel that I was wrong in mentioning my

own name in this place, and I was loath to do so. Still I must repeat to such devoted friends as I have in this county the praise bestowed on their member. I did not seek for it, and I cut it out of a newspaper with a pair of scissors. Last winter the representative of the great firm of Gault Bros., Montreal, said of our Province at a time when business was not too flourishing :

"Payments are being made pretty regularly, and in this point the Province of Quebec is at the head of the Dominion."

A highly flattering testimony in our favor. One of the members of the firm of James Johnson & Co. was asked the following question:—In which Province are the payments met with the greatest ease? The reply was: In the first rank stands the Province of Quebec, and next Nova Scotia. The future of agriculture in Quebec is full of promise, and the Commissioner has done a great deal of good by developing the dairy industry.

LOW PRICES.

Do not be discouraged by the low prices of dairy products. Even now we are better off than our neighbors. This is what is said by the *Boston American Cultivator*, September 19th, 1896:—

"Everybody is complaining of the hard times, and no wonder. Butter is at 15 cents a pound, pork at 2½ cents, for cows \$15 to \$20 a head, and labor as dear as ever."

Is not our state better than theirs. Our cheese today is worth 9 cents; our butter 19 cents. We, of the Province of Quebec, do not complain. In spite of our rather rigorous climate, we are better off than those below the line 45 degrees. Let the land be intelligently cultivated, either after a study of the *Journal of Agriculture*, or after an examination of the procedure of the best farmers, and prosperity will be ensured to the cultivator. I was nearly forgetting to tell you that several bankers, in this year's report to

their shareholders, state that the generally satisfactory condition of affairs is in great part due to the impulse agriculture has received during the last few years. Mr. Hague, whom I mentioned just now, said, in his report of June last: "A silent revolution in the management of agricultural affairs in this Province, leading to the adoption of more intelligent methods of producing greater and better crops is evident everywhere." The conclusion at which I arrived at all the meetings of farmers at which I have been present, is that all over the country we can succeed in making farming pay, provided we stick to the system imposed upon us by dairying, that is, having permanent pastures sown thick and well cared for; growing green fodder to fill up the time when pastures fail, and to help the cattle in winter; and lastly, the growing of roots. Make up your minds to remain or to become graziers, forget for the next few years that you are farmers; cultivation will be less costly, and the income will be larger. Since I have had the honor of occupying my present position, I have endeavored to perfect my knowledge of farming, to acquaint myself with everything that may improve the lot of the farmer, and give a fresh impetus to our business; if I have succeeded or not, that I leave to your decision, gentlemen. I spoke of what our Ministry had done, not to bring out an eulogium on us, but to bring before you the efforts that we have made and the degree of success we have obtained for the prosperity of our rural districts. But, for all that, we must not relax our efforts; on the contrary, I, for my part, shall continue to ask aid from all those competent to give it, only reserving to us of the Ministry the merit of bringing to act together all the energies, all the good will in the country. Success then will follow, provided we deserve it.

COLONIZATION.

This year we have devoted to colonization a larger sum than usual. In addition to that which takes place in the neighborhood, round the old established districts near the forests, and which we have encouraged and directed as carefully as possible, with aid and advice of those interested, we have tried to realize the policy adopted of late years, which consists in preparing the districts which a larger inflow of settlers is invading. Before long we shall have thus furnished four or five large districts, comprising our choicest farms, with roads and improvements likely to attract a still greater number of settlers. I speak of the region of Lake St. John, of the Northwest of Montreal, of Lake Temiscamingue, of the Valley of the Metapedia, and of certain townships in Beauce and the neighboring counties. These regions have been, and will be, the objects of our attention until they shall have been thoroughly organized. Let me tell you, briefly, what we have already done.

AT LAKE ST. JOHN.

There, the establishment of the Trappist Fathers, dates from '92. More than a hundred families compose the settlement on the banks of the Mistassini. Bridges have been built on the larger rivers, tributary to the Lake, and on the Saguenay; bridges on the Grande Decharge, the Mistassini, the Ashuapmouchouan, at St. Felicien, on the Tikoucipe at St. Mithode, and on Lake Bouchette. These bridges have cost \$43,000. A boat on the rivers Ashuapmouchouan, Peribonca, and Mistassini would ascend them twice every week, thus putting the settlers on their banks, and even those in the interior of the Townships in communication, direct and frequent, with the terminus of the railroad at Roberval. The Government has promised to support this boat, which will afford all the comfort desirable, with a grant

of \$5,000, and to provide for its maintenance an annual sum of \$2,000. This is, of course, exclusive of the roads improved and opened every year as usual.

NORTH OF MONTREAL.

To the northwest of Montreal we have made fit for wheeled carriages the Chapleau high-road which extends from the end of the railroad, Lachute and Iroquois, to the Riviere du Lievre, about 45 miles; this road, the greater part of which was only sketched out, is now a principal artery; it is, in reality, the extension of the railroad. We have also rendered trafficable the roads in the townships Clyde, Joly, Minerve, Marchand, Loranger; and we have opened new ones in the townships Turgeon, Mousseau, Kiamika, Campbell. I may mention the road of the Montagne Tremblante, four miles long, through the bush, and leading from the railroad to the spot selected for the establishment of the "Sanitarium," an establishment sufficiently noticed by the press to spare me the trouble of any further mention of it here. I hope the enterprise will be successful, and that many settlers will find habitable abodes in its neighborhood. The road to the Montagne Tremblante was finished at once.

ON THE TEMISCAMINGUE.

At Lake Temiscamingue we opened a road, 12 feet wide, for sleighs, in summer there is communication by water. This road is 52 miles long, and joins la Baie de Pins to the fertile townships Guigues, Duhamel, Fabre and Gordon Creek, the terminus of the railroad. For this road, a bridge over the Kippewa had to be made at a cost of \$2,000. We have, besides, pushed on vigorously the opening of the roads in the above townships.

IN THE VALLEY OF THE METAPEDIA

we began operations by erecting two large bridges over the river Metapedia; one at Causupscal, the other at St. Alexis, and opened roads to give access to them. A large bridge was also built, last year, at St. Ludger, Beauce, this was the only one not carried away by the spring thaw on the Chaudiere. We shall continue our operations in this region, as well as in others, as far as our resources will permit.

MOVEMENT OF THE POPULATION.

As to the movement of the population in these great regions, I will only quote to you a few figures I have at hand. As I said, the settlement at Mistassini has already 100 families, with a chapel and a school. This will give some idea of the rapid increase of population in the townships round the Lake. Monsieur Christin, agent for the Crown lands, north of Montreal, in a report dated last 5th of December, tells us that in the preceding year 300 families settled in the nine parishes forming part of the territory under his jurisdiction. The census on which M. Christin relies was a "house to house" census. Monsieur Carufel, colonization agent at Montreal, in his monthly report of last September, states that 285 settlers were passed by his offices, of whom 211 went to the north of Montcalm, 54 to Lac Temiscamingue and 20 to Lac St. Jean. He adds that the wealthier settlers are those from the States. L'Abbe Tnerien, Cure of la Baie des Peres, declares in a report made to the Department that sixty families have settled at Temiscamingue. Mr. Michaud, agent for the Crown lands of the Valley of Metapedia, sold 167 lots in the months of April, June, July and August. As to the latter region, I may add that Mr. Pinault, M.L.A. for Matane, and our political opponent, declared, last session, that 300 families had recently settled in that Valley.

In many other districts colonization is making marvellous progress, and promises well for the future of the Province of Quebec.

MR. CHAPAIS SPEAKS.

Hon. Mr. Chapais spoke briefly, owing to the advanced hour. He referred to his family's relations in the past, with Nicolet, and besides of the pleasure he felt in addressing the people of this Conservative stronghold. He contrasted in a striking manner the reign of pillage and boodle under the last Liberal Government with the present prudent administration of affairs. He spoke of the accusations of being taxers and borrowers, and branded as taxers and borrowers those who had kept up for years a permanent conspiracy against the purses of the people of the Province; those who had obtained \$100,000 of Bay Chaleur Railroad Company's subsidy, to support Liberal papers, and to help secure elections of Liberal candidates; those who had dealt in the scandals of Ottawa & Montreal Railway affair of \$14,800, the Langlais affair of \$60,000, and the \$28,000 taken from Bay des Chaleurs Railway also. Those people had feasted and drunk champagne and enjoyed all the luxuries of life at the expense of the ratepayers for a short time, but when the occasion came the ratepayers swept them away. He referred to the large deficit, now replaced by a surplus, and gave particular credit to Hon. Mr. Flynn whose administration of Crown Land Department had gone far towards helping the Government in their arduous task. The expenses of Legislative Assembly controlled by Hon. Mr. Marchand had increased enormously, and were now diminished. This gentleman is responsible for the increased expenditure, but still he asks the people to put him at the head of the Province. Hon. Mr. Marchand is personally a very honest and estimable

man, but the people must remember that he has behind him Messrs. Dechene, Turgeon, etc., and, in the background, as keeper of the tollgate, Mr. Ernest Pacaud. If the people wish to see the reign of waste and squandering recommence, they may entrust these men with the reins of power, and the bacchanalian orgies of their palmy days of power will recommence. The election of June 23rd, which he regards as a national crime, is no criterion of the result of the present struggle. They have not the same interests in the Federal Government, and are altogether distinct from it. Just as in 1873 the Province gave only 15 Conservative members to the House of Commons, while in 1875 they returned Hon. Mr. De Boucherville's Provincial Government with a majority of 35, despite the efforts of all the leading members of the House of Commons, they will this year return the Flynn Government to power with an increased majority. Nicolet, he hoped, would return Hon. Mr. Beaubien by acclamation, as a reward of his devotion to the great cause of agriculture and colonization. Mr. Chapais was very successful, and received round upon round of applause.

OTHER ADDRESSES.

Mr. Milton McDonald, M.L.A. for Bagot, a practical farmer, spoke briefly in support of the Flynn Administration and that of his two predecessors, Hon. Messrs. Deboucherville and Taillon, reminding his hearers that they were the first to appoint a practical farmer as Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Joseph Royal, of Montreal; Mr. A. A. Mondon, of Yamaska, and Mr. C. P. Beaubien, of Montreal, briefly addressed the meeting. Mr. Camirand closed by proposing a vote of thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues for the interest

they have manifested in the County of Nicolet.

A vote of thanks proposed by Hon. Mr. Flynn, and seconded by his hon. colleagues was unanimously tendered to Mayor Ball, President of the meeting. The party, after supper at Dorval Hotel, returned, through the courtesy of Mr. J. A. Gagnon to Three Rivers, where they took the boats for their respective destinations.

The meeting can be considered an important success for the Flynn administration, as it united a large audience, and the effect will be widespread.

Meetings will be held at St. Hyacinthe on October 10th, and at St. Hughes, Bagot, on the 11th. A reception will be tendered to Hon. Mr. Flynn on Thursday by the Conservative Clubs of Montreal.

